

I am opposed to mandatory recording of broadcast material. The burden on small market broadcasters will be too great for very little return. There are many reasons why mandatory recording is a bad idea. Cost is certainly an issue. In addition to the cost of the equipment, there will be a staff cost of maintaining the recordings and documenting compliance.

Access to the recordings is another issue. Will they be treated as part of the public file? If so, this will subject broadcasters to having to endure "fishing expeditions" by those who are looking for a reason to file complaints or suits. And if the recordings are not part of the public file, then one might question whether turning such recordings over to some legal authority might not be a violation of the licensee's Fifth Amendment rights.

I wonder what ill mandatory recording would cure? Has there been difficulty in procuring recordings of the most blatant indecency violators? I doubt it. This burden will punish the vast majority of ethical and responsible broadcasters for the supposed sins of the few.

I am adamantly opposed to such burdensome regulation.

Samuel M. Stemm
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